

The rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-4 as amended are supported in the Specification by FIG. 1 and the description of FIG. 1 which runs from col. 3, line 26 of 6,256,613 through col. 5, line 67.

The rejection of claim 1

In the following, references to FIG. 1 and to the description have been added to claim 1:

1. (currently amended) A method of providing continuing medical education credit to a first physician (20, col. 3, lines 27-28) for a consultation between the first physician and a second physician (30, col. 4, lines 25-26),
the method comprising the steps performed in an intermediary (10, col. 3, line 28-col. 5, line 67) and which is coupled by a telecommunications system to both the first and second physicians of:
 arranging and conducting the consultation via the telecommunications system under supervision of a medical information specialist (embodied in the "staff physician") in the intermediary who is neither the first nor the second physician (32, 36, 37, 38, 50; col. 3, line 27-col. 4, line 61)
 receiving a comment (55, col. 4, line 63-col. 5, line 34) made with regard to the consultation via the telecommunications system from the second physician in the intermediary; and
 providing the comment to the medical information specialist (48, 56, col. 5, lines 13-17), the intermediary being empowered to certify that the first physician is entitled to continuing medical education credit (70, col. 5, lines 48-67) and the medical information specialist evaluating the consultation represented by the comment (80, col. 5, lines 48-58, 61-63) to determine whether the first physician is entitled to continuing medical education credit on the basis of the consultation represented by the comment and if the first physician is entitled, certifying that the first physician is entitled to the continuing medical education credit in a database accessible from the intermediary and otherwise not so certifying (82, col. 5, lines 63-67).

The only element of the above mapping of FIG. 1. and its description to claim 1 that is not straightforward is that the description of FIG. 1 shifts from the active to the passive voice at col. 5, line 11. From col. 3, line 26 through col. 5, line 11, the use of the active